(d) if so, will the Government take steps to provide accommodation, toilet, bathing and other facilities to the youths who come from different parts of Karnataka for tests in Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Every male citizen of the country irrespective their caste, class, religion, region and domicile is eligible for recruitment in the Army provided he meets the laid down physical, educational, medical and other criteria where specified. No separate data for a particular caste/community is being maintained.

(b) A total of 2188 candidates from various parts of Karnataka state participated in the recruitment rally held in Bangalore in November, 2004.

(c) and (d) There was a media report pertaining to the recruitment rally at Bangalore in November, 2004 alleging lack of adequate arrangements by the civil administration. It is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence to make arrangements for stay etc., of the aspiring candidates. Before holding any recruitment rally, the Army Headquarters liaise with the civil administration and request them to provide civic amenities and security cover to conduct the recruitment rally. Adequate advance notice will be given in future to the civil administration concerned before holding recruitment rallies for making appropriate arrangements in this regard.

Recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee

†813. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists have been ignored in these recommendations due to which there is great resentment among them; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government to do justice with the army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ajai Vikram Singh Committee addresses the twin problems of reducing the age profile of field commanders and cadre stagnation. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following orders pertaining

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of the Army have been issued by the Government:—

(i) Grant of substantive ranks of Captain at 2 years, Major at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel at 13 years of service.

(ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) on completion of 26 years of service.

Upgradation of 750 posts/appointments of Lieutenant Colonels in a phased manner with 400 posts having been upgraded in the first year i.e., 2004 and 350 posts are proposed to be upgraded in the second year i.e. 2005.

Similar proposals for the Navy and Air Force are under the consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Ajai Vikram Singh Committee did not give any recommendation pertaining to cadre restructuring of army doctors including dentists and veterinary doctors since the same were not included in its terms of reference. However, a proposal in respect of these organizations is being formulated in consonance with the overall recommendations of all three Services.

Implementation of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report

814. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report to ensure more younger officers to command field, in so far as Army wing is concerned by creating 750 additional vacancies at the Colonel rank upgraded from Lieutenant Colonel rank, introducing a system of time bound promotion at 13 years for Lt. Col. and 26 years for Colonel, the first promotion to captain rank being after 2 years instead of 4 years and to Major after 6 years instead of 10 years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken to ensure younger officers with respect to the Air Force and Naval Wing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee, the following orders relating to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of the Army have been issued by the Government. The grant of these benefits are subject to fulfillment of the eligibility criteria prescribed for each of these ranks:—